



# Administrative Office of the Courts

P.O. Box 4820, Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 822-0792 FAX: (207) 822-0781 TTY: (207) 822-0701

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Mary Ann Lynch  
Government & Media Counsel  
P.O. Box 4820  
Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 592-5940  
mary.ann.lynch@courts.maine.gov

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## **Supreme Judicial Court to Hold Court at High Schools in Hermon, Farmington, and Scarborough –October 6, 7, and 8, 2015**

Portland, Maine— Next week the Maine Supreme Judicial Court will hold court and hear 9 cases at three Maine high schools in October. While at the schools the Court will also have lunch with student groups with an interest in law or public service.

On Tuesday, October 6, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m., the Court will hear three cases at Hermon High School, at the invitation of State Senator Geoffrey Gratwick. A second case will be heard at 9:45 a.m., and the third case at 10:30 a.m.

The Court will hear three appeals at Mt. Blue High School, in Farmington, at the invitation of State Senator Tom Saviello on Wednesday, October 7, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m. A second appeal will be heard at 9:45 and the third case will follow at 10:30 a.m.

On Thursday, October 8, 2015, starting at 9:00 a.m., the Court will be at Scarborough High School, at the invitation of State Senator Amy Volk. The next two appeals will begin at 9:45 and 10:30 a.m that morning.

Beginning in 2005, the Court has held oral arguments yearly in actual appellate cases in high schools around the state. Last year, court was held at Yarmouth High School, Presque Isle High School and Mattanawcook Academy in Lincoln. These trips are arranged at the invitation of local legislators. Since 2005, the Supreme Court has visited 29 Maine high schools and heard over 85 appellate cases before Maine high school students and faculty. In each school, the gymnasium, cafeteria, or auditorium is turned into an actual courtroom for the morning so that the students can observe the appellate process. Students receive copies of the parties' legal briefs in advance of the oral arguments, and after the oral arguments the lawyers stay to answer questions from students. When the cases are decided, the schools receive a link to the decision to provide to the students.

Chief Justice Leigh Saufley said, "We are pleased to be able to hold court at three more high schools this year and appreciate the invitation of the schools and the legislators who issued the invitations. Over the years, the Court has traveled from Biddeford to Fort Kent and from Fryeburg to Eastport, with many stops in between our large and beautiful state. Creating a real courtroom in a high school takes great effort on the part of the faculty and school staff. We

appreciate the work that is involved to bring this particular, real life civics lesson to Maine high school students. Of course, the high point for the Court is the chance to meet and talk with Maine students. While each community and schools is unique, we continue to be impressed each year with the quality and level of interest that Maine students from all around the state bring to these hearings. ”

The press is welcome to attend. The case schedule and legal briefs are available on the Court web site, at:

[http://www.courts.maine.gov/maine\\_courts/supreme/oral\\_arguments.shtml](http://www.courts.maine.gov/maine_courts/supreme/oral_arguments.shtml)

Live audio streaming of these cases, and all other Supreme Judicial Court oral arguments is available at:

[http://www.courts.state.me.us/maine\\_courts/supreme/oral\\_arguments.shtml](http://www.courts.state.me.us/maine_courts/supreme/oral_arguments.shtml)

For press interviews, video recording, or photographs of the Court, while the court is in session at the schools, please contact Mary Ann Lynch, at the above e-mail by October 2, 2015, to schedule an interview. Photographs, interviews, and video of students are subject to the rules of the high school, and the press is requested to contact school officials directly.